

AIDS Education Programme

† *402. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plan to start AIDS Education Programme in all the Government and semi-Government schools in States, with a view to alert the youth, especially the students, against the growing dangers of AIDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Government has already started the School AIDS Education Programme.

It is aimed to cover all the schools in the country during the 5 years of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) Phase-II. A phasing of coverage has been envisaged. These programmes are being implemented by the respective State AIDS Control Societies in a phased manner.

Priority is being given to include all higher secondary schools by secondary schools. Private and tribal schools are also being included in the plan.

It is envisaged that at the end of five years, all the Government schools in the States/UTs would be covered.

Schools AIDS Education Programme addresses students of classes IX & XI and focuses on raising awareness levels, helping young people resist peer pressure and developing a safe and responsible lifestyle. The programme reinforces family values and respect for the opposite sex. The activities include training of teachers and peer educators among students, role playing, debates and discussions, question box and access to referral services, if necessary.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.